



Photo No. 11: East exterior wall of Gatehouse, showing date stone, brick bond, star washers (see inset detail), and hinge pinhole remaining from former gate. Looking west.

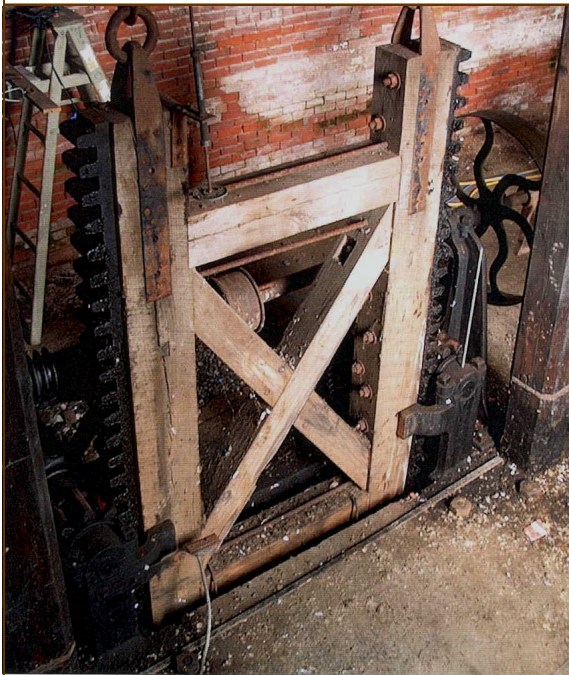


Photo No. 37: Gate # 2, showing lift frame construction, rack and pinion gears, and pinion-gear bearing stanchion and gate-guide bolted thru floor. The bolts resist any uplift forces induced by the counterweights. The lift straps and rings are original, the chains and hook are not. The counterweight is outside the building, replaced with a wood box mock-up. Looking east.



Photo No. 59: Gauging Well and Float-type Indicator. Wood well raised and leaning up at left. Note: electrical conduit and wire extending to floor believed to have connected to electrical water-level sensor in the well at one time. Looking west.



The Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee (MFPAC) is a group of volunteers seeking to provide safe, enjoyable and interesting park experiences while preserving and improving the natural park environment. The MFPAC schedules Trail Days to clean the park, restore damaged areas and create new trails and recreational opportunities. The Committee also works to educate the public on park rules, user impacts on the environment and preserving the unique features of the park that include the 1886 Gatehouse, Mill Pond, Power Canal, the Nashua River and the Cove area.

To contact or become a volunteer member of the MFPAC, please leave a voice message at 589-3400, extension 5005 or visit the City's website at www.gonashua.com



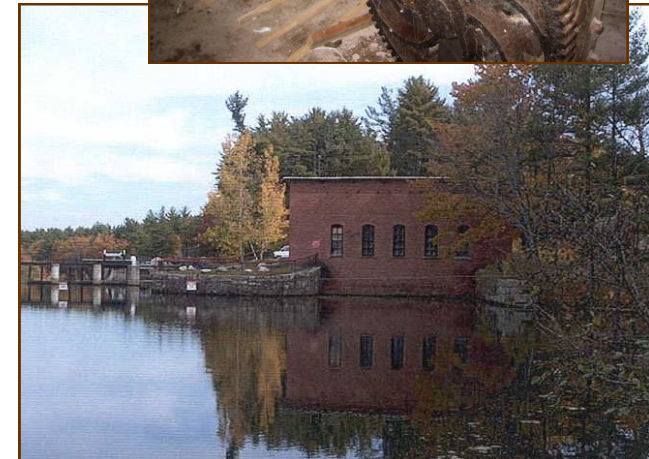
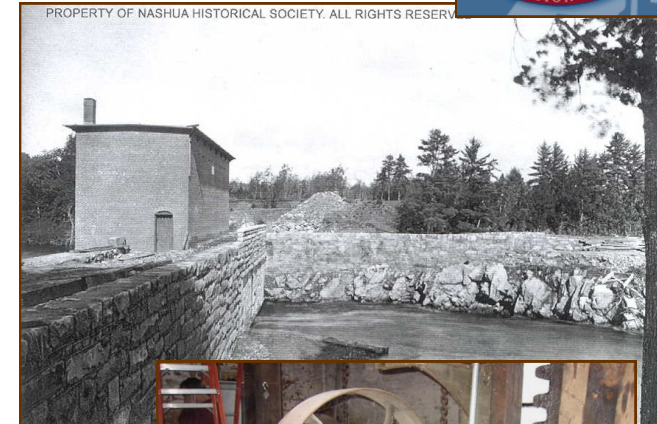
Student Historic Preservation Team led by Mary Coe-Foran with Nick Caggiano, Parks & Recreation Superintendent



City of Nashua, New Hampshire
Mayor Donnalee Lozeau
Lisa M. Fauteux, Director
Division of Public Works
Parks & Recreation Department

Mine Falls Park Gatehouse

2009 New Hampshire
Preservation Achievement
Award Winner



Mine Falls Nashua Manufacturing Company 1886 Gatehouse

Mine Falls Park consists of 325 acres of primarily undeveloped land in the center of Nashua, NH, located primarily between the Nashua River and a canal system. In 1823, the Nashua Manufacturing Company purchased the land (that is now the park) in order to construct a canal and gate system to power a mill complex that would manufacture textiles. In the early 1800's the nearby falls attracted the attention of a group of businessmen from Boston who ventured that the hydropower could be used to drive waterwheels to power textile mills in downtown Nashua. The Mill Pond and 3-mile long canal were dug using only draft animals and manpower, mainly Irish immigrants. Water first flowed into the system on December 5, 1824 marking the Industrial Revolution in New Hampshire. A dam near the present gatehouse and the canal provided 36 ft of head pressure to the waterwheels beneath the mills.

In 1886, the gatehouse was constructed as part of this canal system. The Nashua Canal, Mill Pond and the gatehouse are on the list of National Register of Historic Places. The gatehouse was in disrepair and, in part due to the interest of the Fairgrounds Middle School Historic Preservation Team, and federal grant money was awarded to partially restore the building and surrounding area.

A Historic Preservation Study of the gatehouse, completed in January 2006, was conducted to obtain an inventory of both the interior and exterior of the building, to summarize the physical evolution of the building and evaluate the importance of the architectural, structural, mechanical, and archaeological components of the gatehouse. Recommendations for the historic preservation and physical restoration of the structure were made and prioritized as part of the study.



Based on the available funding, the design of Phase I of the restoration and preservation of the gatehouse began in January 2007 by the Louis Berger Group of Manchester, NH and in March 2008 construction of the improvements began by Engelwood Construction Company of Bedford, NH



Improvements included interior and exterior cleaning, roof replacement, pointing and replacement of bricks; replacing windows and doors; installation of railings; replacing wooden stairs to the sluice area, updating the electrical supply while preserving the old components; installation of safety and emergency systems, and rehabilitating the mechanical furnishings in the gatehouse.



Interior of the restored Gatehouse

The gatehouse is significant for its unique and refined construction methods, integrity of design and materials and surviving mechanical equipment integral to the design and function of the building. The surviving components represent the evolution of the operation of sluice gates from manual power through early and later electrical systems and therefore provide insight into the changing technologies and equipment associated with such specialized structures. The gatehouse is located at one of the main entrances to Mine Falls Park. Now that the gatehouse has been partially restored and with its location in a highly used and well maintained area in the park, the gatehouse can be a focal point to Nashua's past.

*City Of Nashua, New Hampshire, Mine Falls Park Gatehouse
Historic Structure Report & Preservation Study*



Photo No. 38: Gate # 2, showing single drive shaft with attached hand-crank, belt-drive wheels and two worm gears. The worms turn two large spur gears, that turn two pinion gears that drive the two rack gears attached to the sides of the gate lift frame, up or down. The motor chain-drive equipment is missing, apparently destroyed when the counterweight fell. Looking south.



Photo No. 39: Gate # 4, showing single drive shaft with attached hand-crank, and belt-drive wheels. The angle bracket mounted on the post above the drive wheel was reportedly to engage the belt drive. The motor chain-drive equipment is attached at far end of driveshaft. Looking south.